

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 11 - 20 are pending in the application. Currently, all claims stand rejected.

By the present amendment, claims 11 and 15 have been amended and claims 13, 14, and 16 have been cancelled.

In the office action mailed November 1, 2005, claims 1 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite; and claims 1 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,398,259 to Dube.

The foregoing rejections are traversed by the present response.

The present invention relates to a cover for a wheel. The cover comprises a substantially cylindrical part which is adapted to fit around a periphery of the wheel for which the cover is intended, a first side for covering one side of the wheel, and a second side for covering the other side of the wheel. The substantially cylindrical part is joined to the first and second sides of the cover and a closable opening is provided, whereby the wheel can be inserted into the cover through the closable opening and the closable opening is then closed by releasable fastening means. The closable opening is provided in one of the sides of the cover, which side is intended in use to cover the side of the wheel from which an axle on which the wheel is mounted extends. The opening is closable by a pair of flaps which extend over an arc of the side of the cover in which the opening is provided and which are releasably fastened to the side in which the opening is

provided. The substantially cylindrical part of the clover closes the opening. Each flap extends over approximately one half of the arc of the opening. The flaps are provided with releasable fastening means whereby the flaps can be releasably secured together to close the opening.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is now moot in view of the amendments to claim 11.

With regard to the rejection of claims 11 - 20 on anticipation grounds over Dube, it is submitted that Dube does not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 11. In Dube, only one flap is provided in one side wall 10 of the cover. In the present invention, on the other hand, two flaps (4) and (9) are provided in the same side wall of the casing. This arrangement makes it easier to fit the cover to, and remove the cover from, a wheel. Claim 11 has been amended to include this feature of the present invention. For these reasons, amended claim 11 is allowable over Dube.

Claims 12, 15, and 17 - 20 are allowable for the same reason as claim 11, as well as on their own accord.

The instant application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

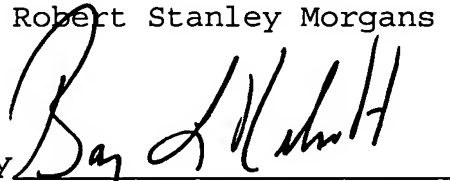
Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response.
Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby
authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on January 19, 2006.

